

Press Release: Town of Payson

****Town of Payson Announces Discontinuation of Flock Camera System Contract****

****Payson, AZ.**** Following an evaluation of the Flock camera system's role within the Town's broader public safety strategy, the Town of Payson has determined not to continue its contract for the system. This decision follows administrative review of the program's operational value, policy considerations, and its alignment with community expectations.

Throughout the evaluation process, the Town considered several factors that informed this decision.

First, the Town recognizes that public safety technologies should remain consistent with the values, expectations, and comfort level of the community they serve. As national, state, and local discussions regarding automated license plate reader technology continue to evolve, staff concluded that continued use of the Flock camera system no longer aligns as closely with the direction and expectations expressed by Payson residents.

Second, the Town identified concerns regarding policy transparency and administrative consistency. When staff requested a formal privacy policy suitable for retention and reference in connection with public records obligations and internal oversight, the vendor referred staff to materials maintained on its website rather than providing a static, formatted policy document. In the Town's view, reliance on externally maintained web-based materials may create challenges in preserving long-term consistency, maintaining administrative clarity, and ensuring reliable policy oversight as such materials are revised over time.

Notwithstanding the decision to discontinue the system, the Town acknowledges that the Flock program contributed to several meaningful law enforcement outcomes during its period of deployment. While the following examples are not exhaustive, they illustrate some of the operational benefits associated with the technology.

In ****February 2026****, investigators used data obtained through the Flock system to identify a suspect vehicle in connection with an incident involving unlawful, non-consensual contact with a 17-year-old employee at a local business. That lead helped identify the suspect and materially advanced the investigation.

In ****October 2025****, detectives investigating a fatal fentanyl overdose involving a Payson resident used Flock data to help establish vehicle movement to and from the victim's residence during the relevant timeframe, thereby strengthening the resulting criminal case.

In **November 2025**, officers investigating a sex trafficking matter used Flock data to narrow the location of an outstanding suspect to a specific area within the Valley, which enabled a partner agency to take that individual into custody.

In addition, officers used alerts generated through the system to help locate and recover stolen vehicles and identify wanted persons. The system also proved useful when outside agencies issued attempt-to-locate bulletins, allowing officers to determine whether a suspect vehicle had entered or exited Payson's jurisdiction. This information supported more informed operational decisions, improved response coordination, and, where appropriate, allowed law enforcement resources to be released when no longer needed.

The Town views this transition as an opportunity to reassess future technology solutions with a heightened focus on public transparency, community alignment, and clear administrative oversight. Going forward, staff will evaluate alternatives intended to provide meaningful public safety benefits while ensuring that privacy protections, program accountability, and policy control remain firmly within the Town's authority.